

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein three or four contact surfaces (2)
15 are associated with the switching element (1).

1 **Claim 2** (previously presented): The switch according
2 to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises a
3 thermoplastic.

1 **Claim 3** (canceled)

1 **Claim 4** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of
15 two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact
16 surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through
17 which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a
18 diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are
19 connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

1 **Claim 5** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with

4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is pin-
15 shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end
16 (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2) is
17 rounded into a convex tip.

1 **Claim 6** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching

12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests against
15 the switching element (1) and/or in the transition area
16 between the switching element (1) and its connection to the
17 switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its
18 inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

1 **Claim 7** (previously presented): The switch according
2 to claim 1, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a
3 metal.

1 **Claim 8** (canceled)

1 **Claim 9** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching

12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise
15 contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching
16 element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1 **Claim 10** (previously presented): The switch according
2 to claim 1, wherein the switch housing (4; 6) comprises a 2-
3 component injection-molded plastic material.

1 **Claim 11** (previously presented): Use of a switch per
2 one of the claims 1, 2 and 4-10 in miniaturized devices.

1 **Claim 12** (previously presented): The switch according
2 to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an
3 elastomeric material.

1 **Claim 13** (previously presented): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with

9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive
15 connection between the contact surfaces.

1 **Claim 14** (previously presented): The use of the switch
2 according to claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are
hearing aids.

1 **Claim 15** (new): An electromechanical switch
2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact

14 surfaces (2) to establish a first electrically conductive
15 connection between at least two of the contact surfaces in
16 a first position of the switching element and a second
17 electrically conductive connection between at least two of
18 the contact surfaces in a second position of the switching
19 element.

1 **Claim 16** (new): An electromechanical switch
2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one pin
3 shaped, electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive
15 connection between the contact surfaces.

1 **Claim 17** (new): An electromechanical switch
2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one rigid,

3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive
15 connection between the contact surfaces.